



315 SO. SECOND STREET
ELKHART, INDIANA 46516
PHONE: (219) 523-2283

12/8/88
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923083

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



Mr. Richard Fields
Arnold & Porter
1200 New Hampshire NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

December 8, 1988

Dear Mr. Fields,

At the time of our last conversation you confirmed that the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) which you represent was willing to provide some type of alternate source of drinking water for the residents on Outer Dr.. However, only 12 of the 22 residents had been sampled at that time. There were 8 wells which still needed to be tested for possible contamination.

I arranged with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to send a field person up to sample these wells for chemical contaminants. On December 6, 1988 the state confirmed that 5 of these 8 wells also had chemical contamination, bringing the total to 15 out of the 22 wells showing some level of contamination. Unfortunately, one well still remains untested as of this date.

Based on the data we have received we feel bottled water or a point-of-use filter needs to be offered to the Outer Dr. residents at the earliest possible date. Even though we have had the test results for approximately half of the wells for quite some time, we felt it was better not to ask you to act on these results until more information was acquired. We believed it was more advantageous to have the test results for all the wells on Outer Dr. so that every resident in need could be taken care of at the same time. We felt it would be less efficient and more confusing for all concerned to initiate a response in two or more phases instead of just one.

During a conversation with Ken Theisen, On-Scene Coordinator, of the US EPA, Region V, he said the PRP had already agreed to include all 22 residents in their offer. We were pleased to hear this since we feel that including all the residents, regardless of contaminant levels, is the appropriate response.

The two options which we feel the PRP has to choose from at this point in time are either bottled water or a point-of-use filter. In speaking with many of the residents on Outer Dr. their preference is for a filter. The reasons they listed are as follows:

- 1) it would be more convenient than the numerous jugs of water
- 2) it would be easier to use a faucet than to pour from the jugs, especially for young children and the numerous senior citizens who live on this street
- 3) it would eliminate having to guess at the number of gallons of water they would use each week (prevents running out of water before the next delivery or the stockpiling of unused water)
- 4) no storage of the jugs of water
- 5) would eliminate the concern of jugs freezing and bursting in the upcoming winter when left outside by the delivery person while the residents are not at home

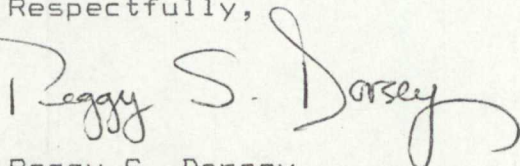
Based on this information I have taken the liberty of contacting both a bottled water supplier and a filter distributor/installer. Enclosed you will find a cost breakdown for each option. I have already spoken with each resident and they are willing to accept either offer. We prefer they are given a point-of-use filter given the reasons above as well as the fact that it is a more economical solution.

Please make your decision and contact our department and the vendor who can provide the product and service you choose to offer. Since we are a county department we cannot sign a contract for you nor pay a vendor and wait for reimbursement.

Please have the vendor contact me for a complete list of the 22 residents who will be receiving assistance from you. Since I have spoken with each of them several times and I have been their contact person I would like to follow through with this project.

We at the Health Department are willing to cooperate with you if you need further assistance. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to call me at (219) 523-2272. If we haven't gotten a response from you as to your decision of bottled water or filters I will call you on or before December 16, 1988. We would like to have the assistance underway starting no later than December 19, 1988. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,



Peggy S. Dorsey
Groundwater Protection Specialist
Groundwater Section

THREE PAGES REDACTED
Exemption 6,
5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)
Personal Privacy Information